— Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers have been made to scientific institutions to improve the organisational efficiency and working conditions of scientists.

International Conferences held in India

2568. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of International Conference held in India during 1986; and

(b) what is the total amount of expenditure borne by the Government on these International Conferences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Inquiry into letter of Credit by Reliance

2569. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI inquiry ordered by the then Minister of Finance into the opening of Letter of Credit by Reliance in the year 1985 been concluded;

(b) if not, by when is the report expected;

(c) if completed, what are the conclusions of this report; and

(d) what action is proposed by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Central Bureau of Investigation have reported that investigation of the case has been completed. The investigation report is now under examination.

Deputy Chairman Planning Commission

2570. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA :

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1013 on 5th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission declined to head a team to visit Darjeeling to study its special developmental needs;

(b) whether the said proposed visit of the team headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission was announced in the press by the Minister of State for Commerce;

(c) whether it is a fact that areas already covered under Hill Area Development Programmes of the Seventh Plan would get special grants over and above, the financial flows to the hill area from the State Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Minister of State for Commerce in his capacity as President of West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee (I) had expressed a hope that a visit by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and his team to not only Darjeeling alone but also to North Bengal and other similar backward areas could be of considerable value.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Special Central Assistance allocated to the Darjeeling Hill Areas for the Seventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 44.55 crores over and above Rs. 78.43 crores as flow of funds from the State Plan.

Grants by the Centre to the States

2571. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the formula being followed at present for providing grants by the Centre to the States;

(b) whether that formula is proposed to be revised; and

(c) if so, details of proposed new formula and from when it is likely to be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Revenue gap grants, net interest liability grants, committed liability grants, upgradation grants, grant component of calamity relief assistance and grants in lieu of tax on Railway passenger fares are given by the Centre to the States in accordance with the formula prescribed by the 8th Finance Commission as accepted by the Government of India.

Revenue gap grants are given to cover deficits on revenue account of State Governments, as assessed by the Finance Commission. Net interest liability grants are given to cover net additional interest liability on account of fresh borrowings and lendings in the period 1984-1989 of deficit States. Committed liability grants are given to deficit States to cover the addtional burden on account of committed expenditure in respect of Plan schemes completed in 1984-85. Upgradation grants are given to deficit States (before devolution) in 10 sectors for upgrading the standards of administration in non-developmental sectors to the levels obtaining in the more advanced States.

For the relief of natural calamities, non-plan grant is given to meet 50 per cent of the margin money requirement of States in accordance with the recommendations of the 8th Finance Commission. In the case of calamities other than drought, 75 per cent of the expenditure incurred by a State within the ceilings approved by the Govenment of India, over and above the margin money, is met as non-Plan grant by the Centre. In the case of drought, expenditure incurred over and above the margin money and within the approved ceiling is treated as advance Plan assistance (the grant component of which will be according to the formula applicable to the State in respect of normal Central assistance) upto 5 per cent of the State's Plan outlay. 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred beyond this limit is treated as grant by the Government of India.

There is also a grant component in the Central assistance given to finance State Plans. The Central assistance is determined on the basis of the Gadgil Formula which has been approved by the National Development Council. It gives 60 per cent weightage to population, 20 per cent to inverse of per capita income, 10 per cent to tax effort and 10 per cent to special problems. 30 per cent of Central assistance is the grant component in respect of non-special category States and 90 per cent in respect of special category States (North-Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh & hill areas of J & K and Assam).

In the case of Centrally sponsored schemes, the Centre's share is determined by the concerned Department on a scheme-to-scheme basis and there is no formula applicable to all schemes.

(b) and (c) Formulae for determining grants which come under the recommendation of the 8th Finance Commission, cannot be revised before the expiry of the period to which the recommendations relate. There is no proposal persently to revise the Gadgil formula for the allocation of Central assistance for the State Plans. Revision of the formula can however be done only with the approval of the national Development Council.

Missile Test Range at Baliapal

2572. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1307 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1986 and state whether Government propose to reconsider its decision to establish the Missile Test Range at Baliapal in Orissa in view of the widespread resentment among the local people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): There is no change in the decision of the